

Message Text

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16
ACTION LAB-04

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R 102041Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9688
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ILO ELAB TD
SUBJECT: ILO ACTIVITIES IN TRINIDAD

REF: (A) STATE 203991, (B) STATE 206218

1. THE PRESENT FOCUS OF THE ILO CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OFFICE IN PORT OF SPAIN IS OUTWARD TOWARDS THE SMALLER ISLANDS WITH LESS EMPHASIS ON TRINIDAD AND THE OTHER MORE DEVELOPED CARIBBEAN STATES. THE ILO OFFICE HAS ONLY ONE ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT WITH A SPECIFIC IMPACT ON TRINIDAD - COOPERATIVES - AND ONE POSSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE - IN MANPOWER. TRINIDAD DOES BENEFIT FROM THE SPILLOVER EFFECT OF ILO EXPERTS BASED IN PORT OF SPAIN WHO HAVE PROVIDED SOME SMALL-SCALE ASSISTANCE IN ADVICE ON PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. THE WORK OF THE ILO OFFICE HAS BEEN CURTAILED BY THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS IN THE UNDP, WHICH PROVIDES MOST OF THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FUNDING.

2. THE MAJOR ILO PROJECT WHICH DIRECTLY CONCERNS TRINIDAD IS THE CARIBBEAN CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FINANCED BY THE DANISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DANIDA). THE CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE SECTION
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OF THE PROJECT, WHICH IS LOCATED IN TRINIDAD, FOLLOWS

ON THE INITIAL WORK OF THE ILO IN SETTING UP THE TRINIDAD FEDERATION OF CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVES IN 1973. THE ILO PROJECT PROVIDES ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THE FEDERATION ON THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE SUPERMARKETS. THE TRINIDADIAN PART OF THE PROJECT APPEARS TO BE WELL RUN IN ITS INITIAL STATES AND APPROPRIATELY DIRECTED TOWARD AN AREA OF INTEREST AND NEED. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF ANY DELAYS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PROJECT. IT APPEARS TO BE RECEIVING ADEQUATE BACKSTOPPING FROM THE ILO REGIONAL OFFICE AND FROM GENEVA AND ADVISERS ARE QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY. SINCE THIS PROJECT IS STILL IN ITS INFANCY, NO MEANINGFUL EVALUATION IS POSSIBLE NOW.

3. AN ILO ADVISORY PROJECT ON SAFETY AND HEALTH CONCLUDED AT THE END OF 1975 (REF B). ITS OBJECTIVES WERE TO PROVIDE EXPERT ADVICE TO THE INSPECTORATE OF FACTORIES AND TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR IN DRAWING UP HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION. THIS PROGRAM WAS EXTENDED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT AND RESULTED IN THE DRAFTING OF COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION ON HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS. THE DRAFT LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED BY PARLIAMENT LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT. THE EMBASSY IS NOT AWARE OF THE DEGREE OF WHICH WORKERS OR EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS WERE INVOLVED IN THE EXERCISE. THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT WERE HIGHLY APPROPRIATE TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS OF TRINIDAD.

4. THE ILO SPONSORED A REGIONAL SEMINAR IN PORT OF SPAIN ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS IN OCTOBER 1975 (REF B). REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENTS OF VIRTUALLY ALL THE INDEPENDENT AND DEPENDENT COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE ILO REGIONAL OFFICE ATTENDED THE MEETING. THE SEMINAR WAS CONDUCTED BY A TEAM OF OFFICIALS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR STANDARDS DEPARTMENT OF THE ILO IN GENEVA AND WAS INTENDED TO ACQUAINT THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR IN THIS AREA WITH THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LABOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE ILO..THE EMBASSY HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY FEEDBACK, EITHER POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, ON THE RESULTS OF THE SEMINAR. FROM DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH DELEGATES AT THE OPENING OF THE SEMINAR, HOWEVER, IT APPEARED THAT THE SEMINAR WOULD PERFORM A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL PRUPOSE IN PROVIDING THE PARTICIPANTS WITH COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT A COMPLEX BUT BASIC FUNCTION OF THE ILO.

5. ILO REGIONAL EXPERTS RESIDENT IN PORT OF SPAIN HAVE ALSO PROVIDED USEFUL INCIDENTAL ASSISTANCE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IN THE AREAS OF WORKER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. ONE RELATED REGIONAL PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDER WAY IN TRINIDAD IS THE TRANSLATION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING MATERIAL FROM VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN SOURCES FOR ADAPTATION AND USE IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE ILO OFFICE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ARE NOW DISCUSSING A SHORT-TERM ORGANIZATIONAL PROJECT FOR LATER THIS YEAR, PRELIMINARY TO A FULL-SCALE MANPOWER REQUIREMENT SURVEY. BOTH THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM PROJECTS WOULD INVOLVE ILO EXPERTS AND WOULD MOST LIKELY BE FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
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